

Personal News and Gossip of the Government Departments

Govt. Printing Office

The removal of the specification division from the old to the new building, the first part of the week, served to consolidate all the printing divisions of the office under one roof, for the first time in a dozen years. The fifth and sixth floors now contain the principal typesetting divisions of the office, the sixth floor accommodating the hand-set divisions, and the fifth being devoted to the machine-set divisions. There are in the neighborhood of 1,000 busy workers on the two floors alone.

Phonetic List Distributed.

The list of 300 words constituting the first installment of the new phonetic spelling system has been printed and distributed to the printers and proofreaders, with instructions to take due notice and act accordingly. It is understood that the new system will only apply for the present to executive and departmental work, authority to change the spelling on Congressional work not yet having been granted. The employees are working hard to solve the intricacies of the new system, and it is believed that before a great while will have it down pat.

Example of Phonetics.

A printery proofreader has produced the following as an example of the possibilities of the new phonetic spelling system: "The maiden thus address, bluish, dropt her eyes, and confest that she was much imprest. The youth lookt radiant, stept to her side, and, as her head dropt on his shoulder, kist her rosy cheek and prest her to his breast. But, alas, he tript and slipt, and something snapt and ript; tho not thru the rest may be skipt."

Foster Works for Big Encampment.

Henry Foster, of the watch force, one of the most popular employees of the printery, is taking fifteen days of his annual leave, which he is devoting to service on the entertainment committee of the forthcoming encampment of the Spanish-American war veterans. "Dad," as he is affectionately called by his many friends in the office, is chairman of the committee, and it is predicted that he will see that the visiting Rough Riders have the time of their lives. Besides his service in Cuba, Mr. Foster has a distinguished army record as a veteran of the Indian wars and the civil war. He was a member of General Lawton's command at Santiago, and his troop supported Roosevelt in his famous charge up San Juan hill. He was shot through both arms in that engagement. He was presented to Colonel Roosevelt by General Lawton, at that place, and has since received special recognition from the President.

Personal Notes.

W. T. Bessison, of the finishing room of the bindery, returned Tuesday from a trip to St. Louis and other points along the Mississippi river. He was the guest of his sister in St. Louis.

Will H. Kervin, an efficient and popular clerk in the office of the superintendent of the supply division, has been given an increase in salary, being raised from \$1,075 to \$1,400 per annum. Mr. Kervin is a native of New York, and has been employed in the office for the past twelve years.

John L. Alverson, clerk in Timekeeper Enright's division, has recently been granted a handsome increase in salary. He was raised from \$1,000 to \$1,600 per annum.

W. A. Pollard, of the document division, is among the number receiving promotions during the week.

W. B. Dorsey, of the office of the superintendent of supplies, was given an increase in salary this week.

Lewis H. Wilcox, the obliging doorkeeper at the main entrance to the old building, has recently returned to his post of duty after six weeks with his home folks in Michigan.

J. A. Cunningham, of the main press room, who has been on the sick list for about three weeks, is reported to be improving.

Ed Reimuth, of the average room, has returned from a fifteen-day vacation, which was spent with his family at Colonial Beach.

Ed. F. Geyer, of the average room, is taking his annual leave, which was granted him Thursday.

Thomas Peter and Hynes E. Terry, of the guide force, have been on the resting list during the week.

J. M. Price has been transferred from the bindery stock division to the document division.

James H. Heslet, of the main proof room, will leave on Thursday for Tampa, Kan., where he will visit home folks for thirty days. He will be accompanied by his wife and daughter, Florence.

Joseph S. Cornish, of the folding division, has returned from a vacation for a day or so, and will return to the office on Friday.

H. C. Wasson, of the bindery, has returned from a sixty-day trip to Iowa and Illinois. He was accompanied by his wife.

Walter Terry, of the finishing division of the bindery, has returned to the city from his wedding tour and reported at the office yesterday. He and his bride, formerly Miss Bessie E. Work, of the bindery, visited at Atlantic City and other points East.

Assistant Foreman Grant, of the first division, has returned from his vacation, part of which was spent in Atlantic City.

Charles George, of the sixth division, took his leave this week, and will visit friends in Chicago.

D. A. Gillen, of the main proof room, has returned from a vacation spent at Atlantic City.

T. Frank Morgan, assistant foreman of the first division, is back from an extensive tour of the Northwest. He was a member of a party that toured Canada.

Robert W. Christian, after a vacation and outing at Rehoboth Beach, has re-

SUCCESSOR TO LANGLEY



THOMAS S. MERRILL,
Who Has Been Made Disbursing and Appointment Clerk of the Census Office.

Census Bureau

The promotion of Thomas S. Merrill to the position of disbursing and appointment clerk of the Census Office, to succeed John W. Langley, has been received with much satisfaction by the employees of that office, with all of whom Mr. Merrill is most popular. Mr. Langley has been nominated for Congress in his district, and leaves the Census Bureau for the purpose of conducting his campaign.

Mr. Merrill is a son-in-law of E. B. Eynon, of the War Department, and is turned to the office and again taken up his work in the sixth division.

Joe Dries, of the sixth division, has returned from a visit to his old home in Minneapolis, Minn.

Clyde J. Sheriff, who recently resigned from the printery to locate in Seattle, Wash., writes to friends here that he is at work, and is well pleased with his new home.

W. A. Moore, of the document division, has returned from his vacation, which was pleasantly spent at Liganore Hills, Md.

Howard Youngs, time clerk of the document division, after visiting at various points in New York State, has returned to the office.

Thomas Conway, of the main press room, returned to the office this week after spending his annual vacation taking in the sights at Atlantic City.

George Sylvester, of the third division, has reported for duty after taking his annual leave.

Miss Minnie Hegeman, a popular clerk in the document division, has returned from her vacation, which was spent with home folks in northern New York. She also made several side trips to other points in the State.

Miss Jennie Grace Johnson, copyholder in the specification division, has returned from her vacation, which was spent in Massachusetts, as well as at her old home in Connecticut. She is much improved in health and reports a delightful trip.

Charles E. Howard, of the folding room, is spending his vacation with relatives in New York city.

James M. McDaniel, of the folding room, has returned from his home in South Carolina, where he spent fifteen days of his annual leave visiting friends and relatives.

H. M. Allen, of the bill section of the folding room, has returned to the office, after an extensive trip through several of the New England States and Canada. He also visited friends at his old home in Watertown, N. Y., a city of which he at one time had the honor of being mayor.

William Aetnhead, of the folding room, has been granted thirty days' leave. He will spend most of his vacation with friends at Frederick, Md.

John F. Desmond has returned from his annual vacation, which was spent principally in Boston.

Miss Anna Hansborough, of the document division, has returned from her vacation, which was spent in New York, Boston, and New London, Conn. At the latter place she visited her sister, the wife of Lieutenant Wolven, U. S. A.

L. R. Stealy, a popular clerk in the document division, was granted fifteen days' leave Saturday. Accompanied by his wife, he will visit friends in Maryland and Virginia.

John Williams has returned from Colonial Beach, and is again at his post of duty in the sixth division.

A jolly party of proof readers from the office, who have been playing the role of tourists and fishermen for several weeks, returned to the city the first of the week, after an enjoyable trip to Canada. The party consisted of Albert Reed, Harry Watkins, John S. Huston, and Harry Humble.

AUSTRIA COLLECTS DEBTS.

A debt-collecting agency which is run as a part of the regular public postal system is the newest "improvement" of the postoffice of Austria. Despite the novelty of the enterprise, the plan has worked admirably, so that many thousands are collected annually by the postmen throughout the Austrian empire.

The promotion of Thomas S. Merrill to the position of disbursing and appointment clerk of the Census Office, to succeed John W. Langley, has been received with much satisfaction by the employees of that office, with all of whom Mr. Merrill is most popular. Mr. Langley has been nominated for Congress in his district, and leaves the Census Bureau for the purpose of conducting his campaign.

Mr. Merrill is a son-in-law of E. B. Eynon, of the War Department, and is turned to the office and again taken up his work in the sixth division.

Joe Dries, of the sixth division, has returned from a visit to his old home in Minneapolis, Minn.

Clyde J. Sheriff, who recently resigned from the printery to locate in Seattle, Wash., writes to friends here that he is at work, and is well pleased with his new home.

W. A. Moore, of the document division, has returned from his vacation, which was pleasantly spent at Liganore Hills, Md.

Howard Youngs, time clerk of the document division, after visiting at various points in New York State, has returned to the office.

Thomas Conway, of the main press room, returned to the office this week after spending his annual vacation taking in the sights at Atlantic City.

George Sylvester, of the third division, has reported for duty after taking his annual leave.

Miss Minnie Hegeman, a popular clerk in the document division, has returned from her vacation, which was spent with home folks in northern New York. She also made several side trips to other points in the State.

Miss Jennie Grace Johnson, copyholder in the specification division, has returned from her vacation, which was spent in Massachusetts, as well as at her old home in Connecticut. She is much improved in health and reports a delightful trip.

Charles E. Howard, of the folding room, is spending his vacation with relatives in New York city.

James M. McDaniel, of the folding room, has returned from his home in South Carolina, where he spent fifteen days of his annual leave visiting friends and relatives.

H. M. Allen, of the bill section of the folding room, has returned to the office, after an extensive trip through several of the New England States and Canada. He also visited friends at his old home in Watertown, N. Y., a city of which he at one time had the honor of being mayor.

William Aetnhead, of the folding room, has been granted thirty days' leave. He will spend most of his vacation with friends at Frederick, Md.

John F. Desmond has returned from his annual vacation, which was spent principally in Boston.

Miss Anna Hansborough, of the document division, has returned from her vacation, which was spent in New York, Boston, and New London, Conn. At the latter place she visited her sister, the wife of Lieutenant Wolven, U. S. A.

L. R. Stealy, a popular clerk in the document division, was granted fifteen days' leave Saturday. Accompanied by his wife, he will visit friends in Maryland and Virginia.

John Williams has returned from Colonial Beach, and is again at his post of duty in the sixth division.

A jolly party of proof readers from the office, who have been playing the role of tourists and fishermen for several weeks, returned to the city the first of the week, after an enjoyable trip to Canada. The party consisted of Albert Reed, Harry Watkins, John S. Huston, and Harry Humble.

ANCIENT ART TAXED.

The proposal to impose a duty of 20 per cent on ancient objects art entering France, has been officially accepted by M. Poincare, and will be included in his budget for 1967. It is viewed with the greatest antagonism by French fine-art dealers.

Civil Service Comm.

The correspondent has come into temporary possession of the first set of blanks issued by the Simplified Spelling Board, including the list of 300 words, the spelling of which has been modified by the board. The new spelling will enter into the application blanks for the various examinations held by the Civil Service Commission, but it will not be obligatory upon applicants, with the single exception of the matter of experience, which is rated from this source of information.

In the examinations that will be given in spelling in the future, however, the examination division of the commission will accept the simplified forms of words as well as the usual forms. Hereafter where any given word was capable of more than one form of spelling, any approved method of spelling the word has been accepted by the commission. This practice will also be continued.

Boon to Messenger Boys.

It is anticipated that the messenger boys who apply for examination for entrance to the Government service hereafter will pass their spelling examinations with flying colors. Previous to this time, the messenger boy has hated with right good will this particular part of the intellectual test prescribed for him, but now it would seem his troubles are nearly over, and he can turn his attention to French, Old English, Analytics, and other less troublesome branches than the one contained in the spelling book. For instance, in the following words, our faithful boys who wear the little blue coats may choose whichever spelling they think best on an examination for the Government service: Anesthesia or anaesthesia; archeology or archaeology; diresis or diresis; esophageal or oesophageal; paleolithic or palaeolithic; and palaeozoic or palaeozoic.

Also the School Marm.

Then, again, those schoolmarmes, who take examinations prescribed for teachers of kindergartens and youthful Indians, will also thoroughly appreciate the kindness of the commission in allowing them to choose in which of the two ways they will spell the following words, each of which is very dear and familiar to the average schoolmarm: (I used to be) a coquet or coquette; (I have been) kist or kissed; (I shall be) mist or missed; (I am a) pedagogue or (HE is a) paedagogue; (I have) whipt or whipped; (I am being) winkt or winked (at).

Personal Notes.

Miss Edna J. Spofford, of the examining division, has returned from a visit to her parents in New York State.

Miss Anna De Sales Levey, of the appointments division, will return Tuesday from a vacation trip to New York city and other Eastern points.

Col. James A. Stratton and daughter, the former of the examining division, are in Boston at present, and expect soon to sail from that point for Halifax, Nova Scotia.

B. W. Kumber, of the examining division, returned Friday from a four weeks' visit in Seven Mile, Ohio.

Will A. Kemper, of the examining division, has returned from a three weeks' vacation spent at Lorton Valley, Va.

Miss Hattie B. Crump, of the division of appointments, has returned, after a vacation of three weeks spent in New England and the East. Miss Crump was accompanied by Miss Agnes C. Thompson, a visit to Somerville, Mass., friends.

L. W. Covell, of the examining division, was confined to his home last week by illness.

F. M. McLaughlin, of the rural free delivery division, will return Monday from a visit to relatives in Painesburg, Cedar Rapids, and other cities in Iowa. Mr. McLaughlin has been absent since August 10.

W. F. Mutchler returned Saturday from a vacation spent in Easton, Pa. Mr. Mutchler has been away from his desk since August 13.

E. F. Brown, of the application division, will return Monday from a week's vacation.

Mrs. C. B. Cobb, who left August 20, will return Tuesday from a two weeks' vacation.

F. W. Haller left September 1 for a visit in Pennsylvania and New York. He expects to return the last of the month.

H. E. Morgan, of the application division, will return September 17 from a trip to North Carolina.

F. L. Phipps, of the application division, who has been enjoying a visit to his home in Ohio since August 20, is expected back on September 24.

The wife and little son of Arthur H. Bachmann, of the stenographers' room of the division of appointments, are expected to return next week from an extended visit in New York State. Mr. Bachmann was with his family for three weeks.

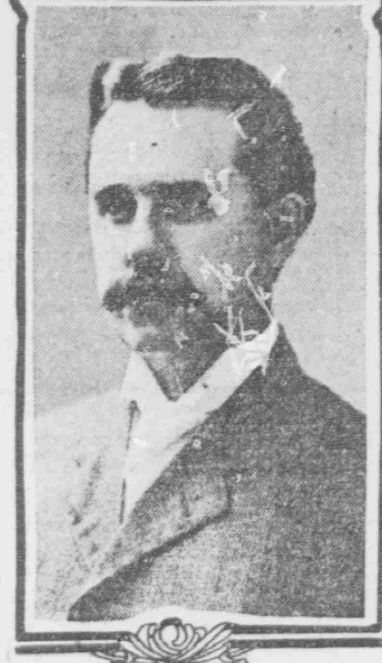
Clarence F. Newton, of the division of appointments, returned Tuesday from an extended visit to his mother and friends in New London, Conn.

S. B. Clements, of the application division, left the first of the week with a party of friends for a fishing trip on the lower Potomac. Mr. Clements will be absent about two weeks.

George W. Hall, of the examining division, will return next week from a visit in Bangor, Me.

R. H. Griffith, an employee in the office of the secretary for the fourth civil

EARNED HIS PROMOTION



WILLIAM R. SPILMAN,
Superintendent of the Rural Free Delivery Bureau.

Post Office

William R. Spilman, superintendent of the Rural Free Delivery Bureau, of the Postoffice Department, has had an interesting career in the service of Uncle Sam. Like Mr. Cortelyou, he entered the service as a stenographer and earned his promotion by hard work and executive ability. Today he presides over a bureau employing in the neighborhood of 35,000 rural letter carriers throughout the States and Territories.

Superintendent Spilman was born at Manhattan, Kan., and educated in the public schools and the Kansas State Agricultural College at that place. In April, 1881, having passed the speed test, Mr. Spilman was appointed official stenographer to the district court in the Twenty-first judicial district of Kansas, which position he held for over six years.

In the spring of 1897, he took a civil service examination, and the following November received an appointment as stenographer and typewriter in the Navy Department at \$95 a year. Mr. Spilman accepted this appointment, and was assigned to duty in the office of the Judge Advocate General. Shortly after entering upon his duties a vacancy occurred in the personnel of that office, and although his probationary term had not expired, he was, on recommendation of the Judge Advocate General, promoted to \$100.

In June, 1898, on the request of late Fourth Assistant Postmaster General J. L. Bristol, he was transferred to the Postoffice Department at a salary of \$120 a year. Just at that time the Spanish-American war increased the clerical work at the White House, and the Postoffice Department was requested to detail Mr. Spilman for duty there in disposing of the enormous correspondence growing out of the war.

In the fall of 1899 he took up the study of law, but this was cut short on his being detailed to assist the postoffice inspectors who effected the transfer of the department of posts of Porto Rico to the Postoffice Department, with the consequent reorganization, in which Mr. Spilman took an active part.

On returning to the Department at Washington he was assigned to duty in the office of the Fourth Assistant Postmaster General, and in July, 1901, was made confidential clerk to that official at \$150 a year. In December of that year, a vacancy occurring in the position of Chief of the Division of Appointments, in which are treated all matters pertaining to the appointment of thousands of postmasters, Mr. Spilman was selected to fill this position, with a salary of \$2,000 a year. He continued there until appointed to his present position, at a salary of \$3,000 per annum.

Personal Notes.

Mrs. Lillian Brown has returned from her vacation, the last two weeks of which was passed in the Berkshire hills.

Mr. Cole is enjoying a few days at home with his wife and children, who have just returned from an extended visit to relatives in their old home up the Hudson.

Recent letters from Miss Peachie, who has been in Seattle, Wash., during the summer, state that she is improved in health and will probably return about October 1.

More than 100,000 letters were sent to the dead letter office during the year 1905 because of having been mailed without any address.

The many friends of Mr. Taylor, of the division of dead letters, are glad to know that he is now on the way to recovery, after a serious illness.

Mr. Dalzell, chief of the property branch in the division of dead letters, has gone to Ogdensburg, N. Y., his native place, to spend his vacation.

service district, and wife are enjoying the cool weather at Ocean City, Md. Mr. Griffith's outing extends from September 1 to 15.

P. A. Hord, of the examining division, is visiting relatives at Covington and Maysville, Ky.

Miss Ida M. Reilly, of the division of appointments, is enjoying the invigorating air and ocean breezes at Asbury Park, N. J.

Miss Lillian Thomas, niece of Daniel Brobst, of the division of appointments, left Saturday for her home in New York, after a visit of two months at the home of Mr. Brobst. She returns to enter school.

Miss L. L. Tracy has returned from a vacation journey to Michigan and New York.

It is expected that the clerk examiner examination will be scheduled within a day or two. Most of the employees of the commission were appointed from this examination.

Pension Bureau

Capt. John R. King, United States pension agent, is again on duty after his trip to Yellowstone Park and the Pacific Coast.

John O'Connell, of the eastern division, met with a painful accident on Wednesday. In attempting to board a street car his foot slipped, throwing him to the street and severely injuring him. He was taken to the Emergency Hospital and has since been removed to his own home.

Mr. Keiger, of the eastern division, has been transferred to the special examination division.

W. A. Folger, of the western division, is slightly improved after a very serious operation at Sibley Hospital, though not yet out of danger.

R. F. Chase, of the western division, has returned from Colonial Beach, where he and Mrs. Chase have been having a very delightful vacation.

Miss Cornelia Scott, of the western division, has returned to duty after a visit to relatives in Warren, Ohio.

Col. F. D. Stephenson, of the board of review, is very ill, and his friends are much discouraged by the latest accounts from his bedside.

J. O'C. Roberts, of the board of review, who was taken suddenly ill, last week, has again commenced to show improvement.

Charles Berry, of the widows' files, western division, has returned to his desk.

Walter E. Winslow, of the western division, has been enjoying several days' annual leave.

Miss Nettie B. Browne, of the western division, is again at her desk, after an enjoyable sojourn on the St. Lawrence river.

Henry P. Holden, of the western division, has returned, after his recent illness.

Henry M. Newcomb, of the western division, is at his desk after a pleasant outing at Arundel-on-the-Bay.

Miss Mary Rainey, of the western division, has been detailed for temporary duty in the certificate division, for several weeks.

Mrs. M. A. Custer, of the western division, has gone to Atlantic City to spend her annual leave.

William McK. Cobb, of the western division, is on annual leave.

J. W. Blazer, of the special examination division, is dangerously ill with typhoid fever.

E. H. Carver, of the western division, has been detailed to the Congressional correspondence, widows' section, during the past week, while B. F. Chase was on annual leave.

J. A. Hess, formerly employed in the bureau as an electrician, was visiting odd friends there during the week.

Patrick McEneaney, of the western division, has returned to his desk after a temporary detail in the late army division.

Mrs. Hughes, of the mail division, was not able to report for duty September 1, after her long illness, as had been expected.

Daniel Waters, of the western division, has returned after enjoying his annual vacation.

Major E. P. Halstead, western division, is back at his desk, from his vacation, looking much rested.

W. T. Evans, widows' files, western division, has returned to duty after his

Marine Hospital Service

The following list of changes of stations and duties of commissioned and non-commissioned officers of the Public Health and Marine Hospital Service has been announced:

H. W. Sawtelle, surgeon, directed to report to chairman of board of medical officers, Washington, D. C., September 4, for physical examination.

G. W. Stoner, surgeon, directed to proceed to Washington, D. C., for special temporary duty, upon completion of which to report to his station.

F. W. Mead, surgeon, directed, upon expiration of leave of absence, to proceed to Savannah, Ga., and assume command of service at that port.

F. M. Carrington, surgeon, granted

three days' leave of absence from September 2.

L. L. Williams, surgeon, leave of absence granted Surgeon Williams for one month and fifteen days, from July 16, amended to read nineteen days, from July 16, and five days from August 19, in all, twenty-four days.

G. M. Guitierrez, surgeon, directed to report to chairman of board of medical officers, Washington, D. C., September 4, for physical examination.

J. Spencer Hough, acting assistant surgeon, granted leave of absence for thirty days, to be taken on or about October 15.

A. M. Thomas, pharmacist, granted

leave of absence for fifteen days from September 9, 1906.

Skylard, in the mountains of North Carolina.

G. L. Beeler, division 12, is at his farm near Charlottesville, Va.

Major C. H. Gould, division 27, is in Windham, Vt. He will not return before October 7.

R. E. Marine, of division 31, has just returned from a two weeks' outing at Ocean City, Md.

W. H. Hodge, of division 34, has been spending a month at Blumont, Va. His wife and daughter were with him.

John H. McCready, of division 37, has been spending a month in Maine. He left Washington alone and unmarried. In his return Mrs. McCready accompanied him.

George L. Morton, chief of division 33, is in the Berkshire Hills of Massachusetts with his wife. He will not return before September 22.

Charles Emery, of division 53, has just returned from a trip to Provincetown, Mass.

Arthur J. Hudson, of the classification division, has just returned from Boston, Mass., where he spent a month with his father and mother